

## 2007 Annual School and District Ratings Discussion Points

Based on data received from SDE, November 1, 2007.

### Ratings

#### Absolute Ratings

Overall, the 2007 school ratings reveal an increase in the number of schools rated *Below Average* or *Unsatisfactory*.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	71 (6%)	50 (5%)	46 (4%)	28 (3%)	65 (6%)	139 (12%)	156 (14%)
<i>Below Average</i>	200 (18%)	159 (15%)	150 (14%)	160 (15%)	222 (20%)	250 (22%)	290 (26%)

Table does not include ratings for charter schools, career and technology centers, or special schools.

There were changes to school absolute ratings from 2006 to 2007 in the following manner:

*"Improvers"*: 70 schools elevated their ratings –

- 32 of the *Improvers* are high schools, 14 are middle schools.

*"Maintainers"*: 728 schools maintained their ratings

*"Sliders"*: 280 schools lowered their ratings –  
- 80 of the *"Sliders"* are high schools.

#### South Carolina's Students – 2007

7.6% of students are enrolled in a school with an Absolute rating of *Excellent*.

23.4% of students are enrolled in a school with an Absolute rating of *Good*.

34.6% of students are enrolled in a school with an Absolute rating of *Average*.

23.3% of students are enrolled in a school with an Absolute rating of *Below Average*.

11.1% of students are enrolled in a school with an Absolute rating of *Unsatisfactory*.

#### District Absolute Ratings

- This year, 17 school districts are rated *Unsatisfactory*, up from 11 in 2006, 5 in 2005, and 1 in 2004.

#### Career and Technology Center Absolute Ratings

- Absolute ratings for Career and Technology Centers, as well as special and charter schools, are not included in the overall "snapshot" of the ratings. However, 82 percent of the 37 Career and Technology Centers are rated *Excellent*. One center is rated *Unsatisfactory*. No Career Centers were rated *Below Average*. Three Career Centers were not rated.

#### Charter School Absolute Ratings

- Of the 36 charter schools who will receive an Absolute rating in 2007, one school is rated *Excellent*. Seventeen of the charter schools are rated *Unsatisfactory* and six are rated *Below Average*.

#### Improvement Ratings

- There were changes to school improvement ratings from 2006 to 2007 in the following manner:
  - 286 schools elevated their rating
  - 422 schools maintained their rating
  - 363 schools earned lower improvement ratings
- The number of elementary schools with an Improvement rating of *Excellent* is 16, down from 38 in 2006. Ninety-two percent of middle schools earned an Improvement rating of *Below Average* or *Unsatisfactory* in 2007, in contrast with 83 percent in 2006.

## **Student Performance**

- Flat or declining PACT scores further document lower student achievement. Performance in the middle grades (grades 6-8) is significantly lower than in the elementary grades (grades 3-5). Also, student performance in Social Studies and Science is lower than performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.

### **2006 and 2007 PACT Performance**

	<b>Elementary (Grades 3-5) % <i>Basic or Above</i></b>		<b>Middle (Grades 6-8) % <i>Basic or Above</i></b>		<b>Elementary (Grades 3-5) % <i>Proficient or Advanced</i></b>		<b>Middle (Grades 6-8) % <i>Proficient or Advanced</i></b>	
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>ELA</b>	82.7%	82.0%	70.7%	70.7%	43.5%	43.0%	27.2%	28.0%
<b>Math</b>	78.4%	78.0%	72.9%	73.9%	36.7%	35.2%	30.1%	30.0%
<b>Science</b>	61.7%	63.0%	56.4%	62.7%	27.1%	31.1%	24.1%	30.0%
<b>Social Studies</b>	71.4%	74.1%	63.0%	66.7%	31.1%	34.0%	24.1%	25.05

*Does not include students tested off level or with PACT-Alt.*

## **Notes on Ratings Calculations**

This year, modifications were made to the calculation of the Absolute and Improvement ratings, which factor into an analysis of the ratings.

### ***On-Time Graduation Rate / End-of-Course Assessments***

- High schools experienced lowering of the graduation rate. This may be the result of stronger and more accurate databases. This also is the first year that end-of-course assessments are included in the high school ratings.

### ***Inclusion of PACT Science and Social Studies in the Ratings for Elementary and Middle Schools***

- This is the fifth year Social Studies and Science have been tested on the PACT and 2007 is the third year results have been included in the calculation of the ratings. The results were phased in over a three-year period and the weighting increased each year (5 percentage points per year) until the target weightings were achieved in school year 2006-2007. This year, Science absolute rating weights are set at 20% for elementary schools and 25% for middle schools. Social Studies absolute rating weights are set at 20% for elementary schools and 25% for middle schools.

### ***Increase in Expectations (Rigor)***

- Designed as a system to require and reward continuous improvement in South Carolina's public schools, the rigor of the absolute performance ratings increased last year by one-tenth of a point on a five-point scale. This year, the rigor increased an additional one-tenth of a point.
- Our analysis shows that the increase in the rigor only affected 66 schools, meaning six percent of schools were "caught in the rigor." The 2007 statewide average index is 3.04, which establishes an Absolute rating of *Average*.

## **Confronting Poverty**

*Note: Numbers of schools will vary within data sets. Data provided from the SC Office of Research and Statistics includes information from schools that may not have received a report card or received more than one report card, depending on their school structure.*

### **Poverty and Absolute Ratings**

- Significant poverty exists in the majority of South Carolina schools. Only 6% of schools have fewer than one-third of their students living in poverty (64 of 1106 schools).
- Only 54 schools (5%) serve a population of 30% poverty or less.
- Of 1077 schools which had poverty indexes in both 2006 and 2007, 737 (68.1%) showed an increase in the poverty index.
- Over half (53%) of all South Carolina schools have at least 70% of their students living in poverty in 2007 and 2006. This percentage has increased from 2005, when 50% of all schools were affected. In 2004, 48% were affected.
- Almost one out of 5 schools (20.5%) serves a population of students in very high poverty (90% or more.)

<b>2007 Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Average Poverty Index</b>
Excellent	46.2% (n=71)
Good	52.8% (n=217)
Average	67.5% (n=371)
Below Average	81.5% (n=289)
Unsatisfactory	90.6% (n=154)

### **2007 School Ratings Poverty Levels Across Primary, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools Report Cards**

	<b>Extent of Poverty (Poverty Index)</b>		
	<b>High Poverty (70%+)</b>	<b>Very High Poverty (80%+)</b>	<b>Extreme Poverty (90%+)</b>
Total Number of Report Cards (% of 1128 Report Cards in 2007, 1106 in 2006)	2007: 601 (53.3%) 2006: 599 (54.2%)	2007: 421 (37.3%) 2006: 402 (36.3%)	2007: 228 (20.2%) 2006: 215 (19.4%)
Number of Report Cards with <i>Excellent</i> or <i>Good</i> Absolute Ratings in 2007	2007: 49 (8.2%) 2006: 76 (12.7%)	2007: 24 (5.7%) 2006: 36 (9.0%)	2007: 10 (4.4%) 2006: 14 (6.5%)

### **Poverty by Organizational Level – Absolute Ratings**

Primary and elementary schools constitute a disproportionately-larger percentage of those schools with extreme poverty rates. Primary and elementary schools represent 56.8% of all schools, but 69.9% of schools with a Poverty Index of 90% or greater.

#### **Elementary**

- 1.8% of elementary schools with a poverty index of 80% or greater earned an absolute rating of *Excellent* or *Good*, down from 2.5% in 2006. 2.5% of elementary schools with a poverty index of 90% or greater earned an absolute rating of *Excellent* or *Good*.

#### **Middle Schools**

- Poverty presents a great challenge for middle schools. In 2007, no middle schools with a poverty index of 80% or greater earned an absolute rating of *Excellent* or *Good* while 97.9% of these schools earned an absolute rating of *Unsatisfactory* or *Below Average*.

### High Schools

- 13.7% of high schools with a poverty level of 80% or greater earned an absolute rating of *Excellent* or *Good*, down from 14.6% in 2006.

### **Poverty by Organizational Level – Improvement Ratings**

Eighteen percent of schools with a poverty index of 70% or greater have improvement ratings of *Excellent* or *Good*.

Sixteen percent of all schools (primary, elementary, middle, and high) with a poverty index of 90% or greater earned an improvement rating of *Excellent* or *Good*, while 18 percent of schools with a poverty index of 80% or greater earned an improvement rating of *Excellent* or *Good*, and 18 percent of schools with a poverty index of 70% or greater earned an improvement rating of *Excellent* or *Good*.

<b>2007 Improvement Rating</b>	<b>Average Poverty Index</b>
Excellent	67.3% (n=49)
Good	65.9% (n=148)
Average	65.0% (n=104)
Below Average	69.7% (n=337)
Unsatisfactory	73.2% (n=489)